

THE MORNING ASTORIAN. Established 1873.



RATES.

By mail, per year \$8 00
By mail, per month 50
By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE DIRECT PRIMARY LAW.

We are in receipt of a letter from W. S. U'Ren of Oregon City, secretary of the Direct Primary Nominations League, asking us to lend our support to the direct primary law which will be voted upon by the people of Oregon at the coming state election.

We are unable to find any redeeming feature in the direct primary law, and must, therefore, advise voters to cast their ballots against it. Its principal feature is contrary to American principles.

The direct primary law's terms are substantially to the effect that two elections shall be held—one for the purpose of making nominations and the other for the purpose of voting for candidates nominated at the first election.

We see no objection in the present method of making nominations and electing candidates. It is true the party committees select delegates to the convention, but the will of the voters can not be thwarted by these committees.

The primary reformers set up a great cry about the machine in politics and appeal to voters to support their fanciful scheme because of the general dishonesty of politicians. They forget, however, or try to make the voters forget, that the people are behind all political movements which are successful.

The present system is good enough. If the reformers had something better to offer, we would support the measure, but our advice to all voters—democrats, republicans, socialists, prohibitionists and all the rest—is to vote against the direct primary law. It ought to be defeated by a very large majority.

VOTERS MUST REGISTER.

Within about two weeks the registration books for the county and state and presidential elections will be closed. After the night of May 16 voters who have not registered will be excluded from exercise of their elective franchise, unless their votes are sworn in at the coming elections.

Those who frequent the polls on election day know of the great annoyance incident to the swearing in of votes. Six freeholders—legal voters who own property—must be found to make affidavit to the right of the applicant to cast his ballot.

embarrassing to the applicant and troublesome to the election officials.

Registration requires but two or three minutes' time. The voter goes to the office of the clerk, states his name, age, place of birth, residence and occupation, or, if foreign-born, displays his naturalization papers if he has not previously registered.

All men entitled to a vote should register. They may say before election that they do not care to vote, but they will vote, just the same. On election day the friends of the various candidates will ask them to vote and they will do as requested.

Only one-half of the voters of the city of Astoria have registered. Go into any place where four to 10 men are employed and ask how many have registered. Invariably it will be found that but one or two have done so.

Astoria should register 2000 voters this year. Let the delinquents do their duty today.

POPULATION GUESSES.

The census office announces that it is going to publish annual estimates of the population of the United States. It starts by allowing us 80,000,000 people at present.

There is no new information in this estimate, or, rather, guess, says the Saturday Evening Post. It is based on the simple assumption that we have gained one-tenth as much in each year since the last census as we gained in the 10 years between that census and the one preceding.

The weakest point of the census office rule is its failure to take account of fluctuations in immigration. Our population increased in the 10 years between 1890 and 1900 at an average rate of about 1,330,000 a year.

What we really need, to make our annual estimates of population something better than guesses, is a national system of registering births and deaths. With vital statistics as accurately recorded as they are in most European countries, all we should have to do to get at our increase of population would be to subtract the deaths from the births and add the net immigration.

Government ownership of railways has proved efficient in representing a strike in the Austria-Hungarian empire. On April 21 the employes on the Western Hungarian railway all struck to enforce a long-standing demand for increased wages and the men on the other government roads followed suit, completely tying up traffic except on the private railways.

Rumors from Germany that the fire insurance companies in the realm of Emperor William are discussing the advisability of retiring altogether from business in North America because of their heavy losses in Baltimore, Toronto and other cities on this continent seem hardly credible.

Bourke Coekran is the favorite democratic orator this year. Four years ago he blew so lustily on a republican horn that the democrats had to stuff cotton in their ears.

Hungarian Novelist Dying. Budapest, May 4.—Maurus Jokai, the Hungarian novelist whose serious illness was reported yesterday, is much worse today and his death is hourly expected.

Advance in Diamonds. New York, May 4.—Diamond importers have been advised of another advance by the European syndicate in the selling of stone. The charge amounts to 5 per cent and affects all grades of uncut stones.

ROBBED THE GRAVE. A startling incident is related by John Oliver of Philadelphia, as follows: "I was in awful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite, growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50 cents, guaranteed, at Charles Rogers', druggist.

The Northern Pacific Railway Company will place round trip tickets from Portland to St. Louis and return on account of the world's fair on sale as follows:

- May 11th, 12th and 13th.
June 16th, 17th and 18th.
July 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
August 8th, 9th and 10th.
Sept. 5th, 6th and 7th.
October 3rd, 4th and 5th.

The round trip rate to St. Louis and return from Portland will be \$67.50. Tickets will be good for return via any direct line.

A round trip rate of \$72.50 will also be made from Portland to Chicago and return.

If a passenger desires to take in both Chicago and St. Louis the round trip rate will be \$75.00.

All tickets will be good for 90 days from date of sale. Tickets will be good going ten days from date of sale so that a limited stop-over can be had on the going trip and on the return trip passengers can stop at their pleasure west of the Missouri river or St. Paul. These rates apply via direct lines, but if passenger wishes to return through California tickets can be sold accordingly, but at an increased rate of \$13.50 added to above.

For any additional information desired, call or address A. D. Charlton, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Northern Pacific Ry., 253 Morrison street, corner of 3rd, Portland, Ore.

O.R.&N. OREGON SHORT LINE AND UNION PACIFIC. 76 hours from Portland to Chicago. No change of cars.

Table with 3 columns: Depart, TIMES SCHEDULES From PORTLAND, Arrive. Lists routes to Chicago, Atlantic, and St. Paul.

OCEAN AND RIVER SCHEDULE - From Astoria -

All sailing dates subject to change.

For San Francisco every five days.

Daily ex-Columbia River to Sept 2nd and way day at Wam.

4 a m Daily except Mon

Steamer Nahcotta leaves Astoria on tide daily except Sunday for Ilwaco, connecting there with trains for Long Beach, Tleaga and North Beach points. Returning arrives at Astoria same evening.

Through tickets to and from all principal European cities. G. W. ROBERTS, Agent, Astoria, Ore.

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DR. VAUGHAN, DENTIST. Pythian Building, Astoria, Oregon.

Dr. T. L. BAILL, DENTIST. 524 Commercial street, Astoria Ore.

Dr. W. C. LOGAN, DENTIST. 578 Commercial St., Shanahan Building

G. J. TRENCHARD, Insurance, Commission and Shipping. CUSTOMS HOUSE BROKER. Agent Wells-Fargo and Northern Pacific Express Companies. Cor. ELEVENTH and BOND STS.

JAY TUTTLE, M. D. PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Acting Assistant Surgeon U. S. Marine Hospital Service. Office hours: 10 to 12 a.m. 1 to 4:30 p.m. 477 Commercial Street, 2nd Floor.

Dr. RHODA C. HICKS, OSTEOPATHY. Mansell Bldg. 574 Commercial St. PHONE BLACK 2065.

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ASTORIA AND COLUMBIA RIVER RAILROAD. LEAVE PORTLAND ARRIVE. 8:00 a.m. Portland Union Depot 11:10 a.m. 7:00 p.m. port for Astoria and Way Points 9:40 p.m. ASTORIA. 7:45 a.m. For Portland and 11:30 a.m. 8:10 p.m. Way Points 10:30 p.m. SEASIDE DIVISION. *8:15 a.m. Astoria for Warren- 7:40 a.m. 11:35 a.m. ton, Flavel Port 4:00 p.m. 5:50 p.m. Stevens, Hammond 10:45 a.m. [and Seaside] 6:15 a.m. Seaside for War- 12:50 p.m. 9:30 a.m. renton, Flavel, 7:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. Hammond, Fort *9:35 a.m. Stevens & Astoria. *Sunday only. All trains make close connections at Goble with all Northern Pacific trains to and from the East and Sound points. J. C. Mayo, General Freight and Pass. Agent.

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